



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IOWA

BOARD 2017-18

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'MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' VOTER REGISTRATION

The cold and snow did not deter Metro Des Moines League members Karla Brizzi (left in inset) and Christie Gerken (right) from registering many first-time voters under this tent at the March for Our Lives on March 24.

Thousands of young people gathered at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines to protest for sensible gun legislation, with the theme "Enough is Enough."

Among LWVIA's Legislative Priorities is one on guns: "Enact common sense gun laws, encourage responsible gun ownership, close current loopholes, and rescind Iowa's "stand your ground" legislation." Photos courtesy of Christie Gerken.

LWVIA CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May 12, 10 am, Board Meeting, Human Services Campus, Cedar Rapids

June 5, Primary Election Day in Iowa

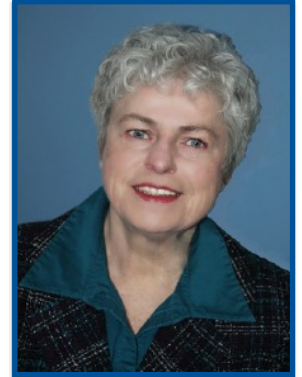
June 9, LWVIA Council, Newton Comm. School District Admin Building,
1302 First Avenue West, Newton

June 28 - July 1, LWVUS Convention, Chicago

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Mary Rae Bragg, LWVIA President

After what seemed to be the longest winter in history, a week of warm sun was all it took to bring the dandelions and jonquils jumping up, with the tulips in hot pursuit. So it's no stretch to say, "Hooray! Spring is here!" And with that comes your latest issue of The Voter, filled with news of exciting League events and projects. Just as sunnier weather is renewing our land, I hope you are taking a renewed interest in what your League is doing these days and making a resolve to get out there and take part.



Perhaps you were one of the hundreds of voters who turned up in Cedar Rapids for the April 21 forum for gubernatorial primary candidates sponsored by the Linn County and Johnson County local Leagues. Or were one of the **thousands** who "took part" by watching it live streamed on Facebook?

I had the honor of moderating the forum and saw firsthand how much work those wonderful sponsoring League members put into the project. Not only did they draw by far the largest audience of any League forum in history, utilizing the League's brilliant forum format, they helped the eight candidates to give voters an in-depth feel for who they are and how they view the issues. It's some of the most important education League does... and no one does it better!

Similar forums for local and state primary races have already started taking place in League communities across the state and there will be even more leading up to the June 5 election. If you aren't already signed up to help, contact your local officers today to volunteer.

Voter registration efforts in Iowa got a fun new twist when the League teamed up with RISE (Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality) to hold a voter registration event on April 25 with members and staff of the University of Iowa football team. RISE is the brain child of Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who, according to the group's web site, wanted to create a way "to bring the sports community together to advance equality, respect and understanding." What better way to encourage young athletes to become citizen leaders than to make sure they understand the importance of voting? Johnson County League turned around a request from RISE in record time to have the materials and volunteers for the occasion, so thanks to them for that. But it got me thinking about how all our local Leagues could be duplicating the RISE effort by getting their college and high school athletes involved in a voter registration event. We often register students through government and social studies departments, so why not athletic departments, too? New voters and photo ops abound!

Another story in this issue of The Voter talks about an ambitious effort to get Iowans to invest in their League of Women Voters. I hope you will give some serious thought to what you can be doing to help your LWVIA Board reach their goal of raising \$25,000 to begin an expansive marketing and fund raising campaign. No one enjoys taking about money, but the truth of the matter is that we now live in a world where members of the public expect to be informed by the media, both social and traditional. No longer can we rely on letters to the editor to reach the masses, and we need to be targeting a lot more Iowans than those who belong to the League of Women Voters.

If the League wants to remain relevant in the second century of this organization's life, it has to reach out for financial support to those individuals, businesses and organizations that support our efforts to discuss issues, not politics. You may not have \$25,000 to donate (If you do, please call me today!) but you may know the people and groups in your community who do and you can put us in touch with them. A thousand dollars from 25 people will get us on course to appropriately celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2020 and ensure League of Women Voters of Iowa is still going strong in our next 100 years. Please help by joining in this vital project!

Onward and upward!

Yours in League,

Mary Rae

GUBERNATORIAL FORUM

Voters all across Iowa had the opportunity on Saturday, April 21, to witness a forum featuring the candidates running to be the Democratic and Libertarian parties' candidates for governor in the state's June 5 contested primary.

A project of the Linn County and Johnson County local Leagues, the forum took place on the campus of Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids before an estimated crowd of 300. The event was also live streamed on Facebook to more than 2,200 viewers throughout the state and a number of local Leagues hosted watch parties.

The original plan called for a second forum to take place in the afternoon, featuring candidates for the Republican gubernatorial primary. However, with the failure of Ron Corbett's campaign to submit the required voter signatures, incumbent Gov. Kim Reynolds will not have a competitor on the GOP primary ballot. Reynolds' spokesperson had earlier said she would not be available to participate.

Democrats taking part in the forum were Nate Boulton, Cathy Glasson, Fred Hubbell, Andy McGuire, John Norris and Ross Wilburn. Libertarian candidates were Marco Battaglia and Jake Porter.

"The wonderful thing about having live streamed the forum is that voters who missed the original viewing can still see it by going to the League of Women Voters of Linn County Facebook page and some 50 more Facebook sites," said LWVIA President Mary Rae Bragg, who moderated the forum.

"Who knows how many more people will access the site prior to June 5?" Bragg asked. "But regardless of that number, we know that the information was and will be shared with many more voters than any League-sponsored candidate event ever has been."

Questions posed to the candidates were submitted by both the studio audience and Facebook viewers. Because of the large number of questions and the time required by having all of the eight participants answer each, it was necessary to combine inquiries into general categories that addressed topics including health care, gun safety, environmental issues, economic development, education and improving cooperation between political parties.

"All the members of the League of Women Voters of Iowa are indebted to the candidates who came together to share their views and to the members of the Linn County and Johnson County local Leagues for the work and cost required to make this event happen," Bragg said. "Indeed, this just one more way the League of Women Voters is serving all Iowans in the effort to preserve our democracy."

Forum Photo courtesy of Teel Salaun Thebeau, Linn County LWV



PLANNING FOR 2020 LWV ANNIVERSARY

The League of Women Voters of Iowa is undertaking a momentous effort to raise \$25,000 to begin the process of funding a 2020 anniversary celebration that will ensure LWVIA continues its important work far into the 21st century.

Approved by the LWVIA Board of Directors, the \$25,000 will serve as “seed money” to hire AMPERAGE Marketing and Fundraising to begin the work of designing plans for communications and fundraising plans and statewide media campaign, beginning with the commemoration of League’s 100th anniversary in 2020 and the 19th Amendment which allowed women to vote.

AMPERAGE, with offices in Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, the Quad Cities and Madison and Wausau, Wis., has a lengthy list of clients that they have created fundraising efforts for, including the Hoover Presidential Foundation (\$510,000), Four Oaks (\$6.05 million), Finley Health Foundation (\$4 million), and the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation (\$7.2 million). Included among their clients are also the University of Iowa Foundation and the Iowa State University Foundation.

LWVIA Board Director Doris Kelley serves as chairperson of Iowa’s 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Committee, an organization of agencies and institutions brought together by LWVIA to create a truly memorable celebration of American suffrage’s 100th anniversary. In addition to the League, committee members represent Iowa State University’s Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Commission on the Status of Women, 50-50 in 2020, Iowa Women’s Foundation, National Nineteenth Amendment Society, NEXUS Executive Women’s Alliance, American Association of University Women and the University of Northern Iowa.

Projects already underway include: a 2020 commemorative 19th Amendment calendar illustrated by award-winning Iowa artist Gary Kelley; lesson plans for public and private school social studies teachers; traveling exhibits; publication of a history book detailing the work of the League of Women Voters of Iowa, an original musical; sculptures; speaker series and forums at community colleges, private colleges and regent universities; and art and history museum displays.

In addition to finding funds for the centennial celebration, the AMPERAGE campaign will also serve to connect LWVIA with grant sources that can, in the future, become regular supporters of the League’s public awareness campaigns regarding voting rights, environmental and health issues and good government.

LWVIA board members are currently in the process of identifying and contacting groups and individuals who will be willing to generously donate to the “seed money” campaign. Appropriate recognition will be given to those who help in this effort to secure the future of our organization and nonpartisan discussion of issues for generations to come. For information on how you can help, contact Doris Kelley at 515-988-2344 or DJKelley@cfu.net.

1920 LWV Poster



LWVIA 2018 COUNCIL

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Newton School Administrative Building

1302 1st Avenue West, Newton

9:30 Registration, Coffee & Networking

10:00 - 2:00 Council

Be sure to mark Saturday, June 9, on your calendar and plan to attend LWVIA's 2018 Council. It's an excellent opportunity for your members – especially those new to League -- to connect with League members from around the state to swap news and ideas. You can count on getting an update on legislative matters from League lobbyist Amy Campbell, who will explain what did and did not happen during Iowa's 2018 Legislature and look into her crystal ball for insight into next year's session. The agenda will also include sessions designed for your local treasurer, best practices for member recruitment and leadership training, communication, voter ID and registration assistance, and Centennial celebration ideas. More specifics will be coming your way in a few weeks, so clear your schedule and get ready to meet!

League holds Council in even number years, between Conventions which are held in odd number years. The Council is composed of two delegates from each local League and the Board of Directors of LWVIA. League members are also invited to attend. The Council elects the vice president, treasurer, and two directors, gives guidance to the board of directors on program and methods of work, adopts a budget for the ensuing year.

Please pre-register with
Sue Wilson, wilsonsue@mchsi.com

In 2018, ID is required to vote in Iowa

Acceptable forms of identification include valid



Iowa Driver's License



Iowa Non-Operator's ID



Voter ID Card¹



Military or Veterans ID



US Passport



Out of State D.L. AND Proof of Residence²

Without ID, in 2018, voters may sign an oath verifying their identity. Beginning 2019, no oath will be allowed. In 2018 and 2019 voter's signature will be required and reviewed as part of the ID process.

Absentee Voting

If you can't go to the polls on election day, request an absentee ballot from your County Auditor's Office.

- 1 Download an absentee ballot request form from the county auditor's website or request one in-person.

Voters must provide an ID number from one of these 3 sources on their absentee ballot request

- 2 Completed requests can either be mailed or delivered to your Auditor's Office.

(see reverse for more details)

¹Issued by Secretary of State and signed **BEFORE** going to vote

²e.g. current residential lease or dorm contract, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government document, property tax statement

CREATING A MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY: LWVUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

from Gaylen Wobeter, LWVIA Board Member

The National Convention of the League of Women Voters will be in Chicago of this year, June 28 – July 1. It will never be a closer location for Iowa League members to attend. Quite a few Iowa Leaguers have already registered, and we are encouraging more members to come to the convention. All information concerning the convention, including how to register, is online at the League of Women Voter Management website for Convention 2018.

Each local league is allowed a certain number of delegates based on their size. Most of the local leagues have already chosen their delegates, but if anyone reading this Voter is unsure about their league's delegate status, please check

with your local president. **If there are no more delegate spots open from your local league, please email Gaylen Wobeter, gaywob@live.com. Gaylen is coordinating the delegate openings for the state, and there are some delegate openings from other local leagues.**

Members are encouraged to attend National Convention whether or not they are a delegate. You will learn a lot and become connected with the work and the impact of local Leagues across the nation and our National organization. You will see how the League is helping us create a more perfect democracy.

The State of Iowa League Board is accepting requests for funding to help cover the registration costs by May 1. Notify Linda Meloy, lmeloy3@gmail.com, State Treasurer, if you have such a request. The State Board will make a decision about the funding requests at their Board meeting on May 12. Everyone is encouraged to register for the national convention prior to June 1 to get the early bird savings of \$50.



Click below to access links to:

[Convention Agenda](#)

[Convention Registration](#)

Early Bird Registration \$450 until June 1

[Webinar Convention 101](#)

[Rules & Procedures](#)

[Explore Chicago](#)

[Other Convention Links](#)

LEAGUE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

by Rachel Eber, Edited Version of article that appeared in *The Scarlet & Black*, the Grinnell College newsletter

On Thursday, March 8, the Grinnell League of Women Voters hosted their third annual International Women's Day celebration. This year, the event was co-sponsored by S.H.E. Counts and took place at Hotel Grinnell.

The idea of celebrating International Women's Day in Grinnell came to Terese Grant, co-president of Grinnell's League of Women Voters chapter, when she was first introduced to the holiday while teaching in China and Ukraine.

"In other places in the world, [International Women's Day] is kind of a big deal," Grant said, adding that in many countries women are given special recognition, gifts and sometimes even the day off. In Ukraine, Grant recounted, the teachers received boxes of chocolates. Upon her return to the United States, Grant thought, "Well, why don't we do it here?"

S.H.E. Counts, the event's co-sponsor, is an organization whose mission is to support girls and women in Grinnell. The organization partners with first-generation Grinnell College students, who help the younger girls with math, introduce them to the possibility of attending college and support them in making that possibility a reality. The proceeds from the International Women's Day event supported the S.H.E. Counts Endowment Fund, which the foundation uses to provide a \$500 yearly scholarship for a first-generation Grinnell high school girl to attend college.



The first year that the League of Women Voters hosted this event, they focused on celebrating the women of Grinnell. Last year, they focused on celebrating the future generation of women. This year's theme was "Press for Progress," and Rekha Basu of the Des Moines Register was the keynote speaker.

In an email to The S&B before the event, Basu noted that the talk offered an opportunity to build upon the themes of her book, "Finding Her Voice." The book is a compilation of Basu's articles on women in the Midwest who have shared their stories about facing adversity or injustice.

"In a larger way, those stories illustrate that women's ongoing struggle for equal rights is not just a problem in other countries like Saudi Arabia or Afghanistan, but right here in America, and in Iowa," she wrote. "Patriarchy and good old boy systems endure in spite of all the progress women have made." The process of sharing their stories, Basu noted, empowers these women.

According to Basu, International Women's Day has not traditionally been observed in the United States due to its socialist origins and its affiliation with the labor movement. However, both Basu and Grant agree that the holiday is extremely relevant to the modern political climate of the U.S., particularly in the context of the growing #MeToo movement.

To Grant, celebrating International Women's Day is about recognizing how far women have come, while also recognizing that we still have a long way to go in the fight for equality.

Basu, like Grant, hopes to illustrate the importance of celebrating International Women's Day in Grinnell. "I hope women will come away with a sense of how interconnected our fates as women are and the importance of global sisterhood. ... Mostly, I hope every woman will feel encouraged to use her voice to speak her truth and help build a more equitable, more just and more humane society."



RISE TO MAKE AN IMPACT!

U OF IA FOOTBALL TEAM RISES TO REGISTER VOTERS

by **Linda Schreiber, Johnson County LWV**

In April, the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) visited the University of Iowa to bring its “RISE to Vote” campaign to the Hawkeye football program to register players, coaches and staff to vote and encourage them to spread the important message of voting to fans and peers.

RISE to Vote, a national nonpartisan campaign, involves numerous professional league teams and colleges throughout the country. The program continues to grow thanks to a grant from Democracy Fund Voice.

The UI/RISE initiative began through football networking and connections of two former Hawkeye football players, Broderick Binns, now UI football director of player development, and Adrian Clayborn, now a New England Patriot defensive end. Mr. Clayborn played for the Atlanta Falcons, where he experienced a RISE to Vote session last fall and where UI head coach Kirk Ferentz started his coaching career.

Connections further linked RISE to partner with the League of Women Voters of Johnson County (LWVJC) Voter Registration Committee to register UI student-athletes.

Part of the RISE to Vote program, held at the Stew and LeNore Hansen Football Performance Center (HFPC), included special guest speakers and experts who addressed the importance of voting and engaging in democracy. Adam Wood, RISE director of college partnerships, reminded student-athletes that voting is a right and a responsibility and not a lengthy process – in Iowa it takes voters on average about 7½ minutes to vote.

Speaker, consultant, thought leader and former college professor and administrator, Dr. Derek Greenfield’s engaging, interactive presentation got student-athletes out of their seats and on their feet with exercises designed to motivate people to register and vote in every election. His message: “What we do matters! Each of us can make a difference.”

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate, who has visited several Iowa college campuses to encourage student voting, was part of the presentation, as was LWVJC member Simone Frierson, who described, step-by-step, how to complete the voter registration form. Julie Wittig, voter registration chair, and team members including Sue Dvorsky, Deanne Mirr, Laura Twing, and Gail and Frank Zlatnik, helped 90 UI student-athletes who attended the presentations.

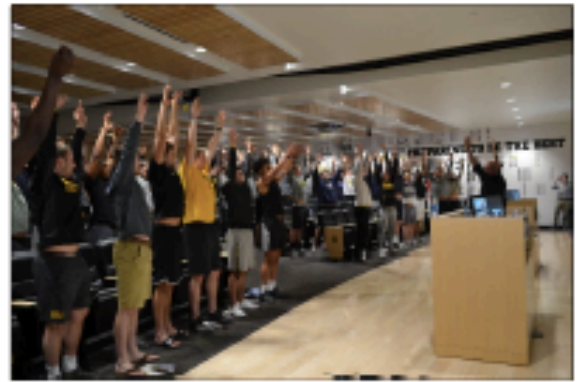
In 2015, RISE was launched by Miami Dolphins owner Stephen M. Ross to harness the unifying power of sports to improve race relations and drive social progress. Initiatives across the country have educated, empowered and supported athletes, coaches and administrators to be leaders and improve racial equality and encourage fans to stand against racism.

RISE has completed voter-registration events with athletic departments at colleges all over the U.S., as well as at the Big Ten Conference 2018 Men’s Basketball Tournament. RISE has also presented to a number of professional teams in the NBA, MLB and NFL, as well as, at Super Bowl LII.

PHOTOS FROM THE "RISE TO VOTE" DAY AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



University of Iowa football team players participate in exercises led by Dr. Derek Greenfield during a RISE presentation on campus.



Broderick Binn is pictured with Simone Frierson.



Dr. Derek Greenfield, Adam Wood, RISE Director of College Partnerships, and Simone Frierson, LWVJC member.

REMINDER TO LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS:

As Annual Meetings are completed and new officers elected, please notify:

Mary Rae Bragg, bragg.maryrae388@gmail.com and

Karen Person, LWVKaren@yahoo.com

with the names of all officers and their contact information.

Thanks!

Important Dates for Voting in Upcoming Elections

	Election Day	Early voting starts	Request an absentee ballot between
Primary Election	June 5, 2018	May 7	Feb. 5 and May 25
General Election	Nov. 6, 2018	Oct. 8	July 9 and Oct. 27
City & School Election	Nov. 5, 2019	To Be Determined	July 8 and Oct. 25

To register to vote and find local information about elections, voting, and polling places, visit www.VOTE411.org



In 2019, ID is required to vote in Iowa

Acceptable forms of identification are the same as 2018 (reverse side)

Without ID, in 2019, voters may vote a provisional ballot or have another registered voter vouch for their identification, which allows them to vote a regular ballot.

Persons casting provisional ballots will need to verify identity after election day. Your county Auditor's Office can provide information about accepted documents and deadlines.



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. To learn more about the LWV, visit www.lwvia.org.

Be Sure to Vote!

League of Women Voters of Iowa - lwvia.org

Karen Person, Administrative Assistant

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